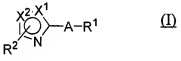
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A thiazole derivative represented by the formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

X^1 and X^2 are different from each other and represent a sulfur atom or a carbon atom;

R^1 is ~~represents a phenyl group;~~

~~a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 5 members selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a hydroxy group, phenylalkoxy groups having 7 to 12 carbon atoms, and alkylamino groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;~~

~~a phenyl group condensed with a 5 to 7 membered hetero aromatic or non-aromatic ring having at least one hetero atom~~ selected from the group consisting of benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl or benzo(1,3)dioxolyl~~N, O, and S~~;

~~a pyridyl group;~~

~~a quinolyl group;~~

~~an isoquinolyl group; or~~

~~a pyridyl group condensed with a 5 to 7 membered hetero aromatic ring having at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;~~

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkanoyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms;

and A represents a group which is represented by the formula

or

~~or~~

wherein:

 represents the bond to the thiazole group of formula (I);

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom;

a hydroxy group;

an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

a phenylalkyl group having 7 to 12 carbon atoms; or

a phenylalkyl group having 7 to 12 carbon atoms, substituted with a hydroxy group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with an alkylamino group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^4 represents a phenyl group;

a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 5 members selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a carbamoyl group, and a cyano group;

a hydrogen atom;

an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms;

an alkenyl group having 2 to 12 carbon atoms;

a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms;

an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms substituted with an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a hydroxy group, an alkoxyphenylalkoxy group having 8 to 12 carbon atoms, a phthalimidoyl group, a toluenesulfonyloxy group, or a morpholino group;

an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 9 carbon atoms substituted with an oxo group;

a tetrahydropyranyl group;

a 4-piperidinyl group;

a piperidinyl group substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a t-butoxycarbonyl group;

a cyclohexanespiro-2'-(1,3-dioxoranyl) group;

a pyrrolidin-2-one-5-yl group;

a group represented by the formula $-Y^1-Z^1-NR^5-Z^2-Y^2-R^6$,

wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 are the same or different from each other and represent a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms;

R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms;

Z^1 and Z^2 are the same or different from each other and represent a single bond;

an alkylene group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms;

-CO-;

$-CO_2-$;

$-SO_2-$; or

-OCO-, and

R^6 represents

a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms;

an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms;

an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms;

an alkynyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms;

an amino group;

an amino group substituted with 1 to 2 groups selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, and a t-butoxycarbonyl group;

a piperidino group;

a piperidinyl group;

a piperidinyl group substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

a pyrrolidinyl group;

a piperazinyl group;

a piperazinyl group substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

a morpholino group;

a hydroxy group;

an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by a hydroxy group or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

an oxetan-2-yl group;

a tetrahydrofuranyl group;

a tetrahydropyranyl group;

a hydrogen atom;

a phenyl group;

a phenyl group substituted with an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; or

a group that forms a ring when linked to the nitrogen atom of the above formula; or

a group represented by the formula $-Y^3-CO-R^{41}$,

wherein:

Y^3 represents a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

R^{41} represents

a hydroxy group;

an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

a piperidino group;

a piperazin-1-yl group substituted by an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a morpholinoalkyl group having 5 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkylaminoalkyl group having 2 to 14 carbon atoms; or

a morpholino group.

2. (previously presented) The thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms.

3. (previously presented) The thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a trifluoromethyl group.

4. (previously presented) The thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group.

5. (cancel).

6. (previously presented) The thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X^1 is a sulfur atom and X^2 is a carbon atom.

7. (cancelled).

8-12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) The thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X^1 is a sulfur atom and X^2 is a carbon atom;

R^1 is ~~a phenyl group condensed with a 5 to 7 membered hetero aromatic or non-aromatic ring having at least one hetero atom~~ selected from the group consisting of benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, and benzo(1,3)dioxolyl,

R^2 is a methyl group;

and A represents a group which is represented by the formula A:

wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom and

R^4 is represented by the formula:

$-Y^1-Z^1-NR^5-Z^2-Y^2-R^6$, wherein $-Y^1-Z^1$ is $-CH_2-$; R^5 is a hydrogen atom; Z^2 is $-CO_2-$; Y^2 is 2-methylpropan-1,3-diyl, and R^6 is a hydrogen atom.

14. (cancelled).

15. (new) A method for treating glomerulonephritis, diabetic nephropathy, hepatic fibrosis, liver cirrhosis, pulmonary fibrosis, or alopeciarosis in a subject in need thereof, the method

comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the thiazole derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

16. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the administration is carried out by external application.